



## **Minutes of Branch Committee Meeting: Friday 25th April 2014 The Palace Theatre, Appleton Gate, Newark**

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**Attendance:** Kerry Walmsley, Rob Walker, Jeffery Keays, Jane Roylance, Beryl Lott, Marianna Porter, Rose Thompson, Liz Mayle, Eva Long, Simon Reville, Neil Robertson, Chris McKinney, Jason Mordan, Des Brack, Ian Wright, Stephen Bradwell, Roy Lewis & Elizabeth Blood

**Apologies:** Philip Grover, Alan Harvey, Chloe Oswald, Fiona Newton, Chris Collison, Elizabeth Bryan, Sara Crofts, Rosamund Worrall, Chris Mackintosh-Smith & Chloe Oswald

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- 1. Minutes of Last Meeting:** Agreed as a true record.
  - 2. Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising that did not appear elsewhere on the agenda.
  - 3. Chairs Report:** Liz reported that she had written to new Branch members and to members upgrading to welcome them to the Branch.
  - 4. Branch Reps Report:** Roy noted the events of recent IHBC Council meetings had been circulated to IHBC members in a recent e-newsletter. It was reported the IHBC had had a meeting with the Culture Secretary Maria Miller and with English Heritage.

Overall the IHBC finances were in good shape with good cash reserves.

It was also reported that the IFA had received chartered status, although the description of the IFA was clearly focussed on archaeology rather than historic buildings/areas.

There was also some discussion about the Peripatetic Council meeting to be held in September in Derby. This was to be combined with the Branch AGM to allow interaction between Council members and Branch members, with the main event on Friday, to invite affiliate members to encourage upgrades to full membership. Roy also mentioned that consideration was being given to changing the membership categories with the introduction of a 'stepping stone' initiative to allow interim/staged applications towards full membership and the Institute was considering a liaison officer post to assist with this initiative.

John Preston is reviewing the impact of the Green Deal for the IHBC and he was interested to hear of examples of the impact of Green Deal works on

historic buildings, although it was most likely to affect non-designated heritage assets where prior consents were not required. The Green Deal was also being extended to the private rented sector with specific requirements to comply.

The meeting also considered the election procedures regarding the Chair of the IHBC and a new system was to be put in place for proxy voting.

On membership, Rebecca Burrows had upgraded to full membership.

Roy also reported that the national heritage protection plan consultation was on-going, primarily to deal with English Heritage and its potential split-up, but it was also looking at a wider agenda involving other voluntary groups.

Liz pointed out that this was also an opportunity for IHBC members to stress the importance and benefits of the services presently offered by English Heritage; in particular such specialisms as technical/engineering services and that these should be retained in the future.

Liz asked whether the Branch could endorse James Caird's comments, or was it preferable to put together a Branch view following the forthcoming meeting with English Heritage. Liz suggested the Branch could offer general support for the changes providing there was a well-funded organisation with the range of services currently provided by English Heritage.

**Rob Walker and Beryl Lott agreed to offer some feedback to Liz following a forthcoming English Heritage meeting in Lincolnshire.**

Roy also noted that preparations for the forthcoming Annual School in Edinburgh were well underway and this would be followed by Annual Schools in Norwich and the West Midlands.

The Policy Committee had also reported introduction of national policy guidance, but the PPS5 Practice Guidance was still extant.

IHBC has negotiated a 20% member discount for new British Standard BS7913 for anyone interested in purchasing the document.

IHBC also had five applications for the annual bursary to the summer school.

5. **Treasurers Report:** Rose reported that the current account stood at £1,817.99 and the reserve account at £190.03 and that she had requested £650 from IHBC.
6. **Membership Report:** There were no new membership applications to report.
7. **County Representatives:**  
**Derbyshire:** No Report.

**Leicestershire:** There had not been a conservation officers' forum since the last Branch meeting, and although there was some concern about reductions in conservation staff after 1<sup>st</sup> April, there had been no changes as yet.

Liz also reported that Sophie Noon had been taken on by Leicester City to deal with a THI Bid for the Cathedral Square scheme.

**Lincolnshire:** North Kesteven had hosted the last conservation officers meeting with a visit to Somerton Castle, where there were current proposals for a conservation plan for the house.

Sara Harrison was now working one day a week for Lincoln City, although there were talks about setting up a new conservation team in the City.

In terms of overall work loads, wind farms were still a major issue.

South Kesteven District Council still has a PSICA scheme running with funds for a second year.

It was also reported that Lincolnshire Historic Farmsteads Project had a forthcoming event in May to report on the progress of recent research work that will lead to new guidance notes.

**Nottinghamshire:** There had not been any conservation officers meetings for a while, but it had been proposed to schedule 6-monthly meetings, which was felt more appropriate for conservation officers in Nottinghamshire.

It was reported that James Bate had moved to take over conservation at Rushcliffe, and that Tony Player has now retired from Gedling.

A THI has been submitted for Carrington Street in Nottingham and the buildings at risk surveys for Newark & Sherwood were expected to be completed shortly, Broxtowe and Rushcliffe would then follow.

**Northamptonshire:** The Northants heritage team report has resulted in the loss of one post, but this should not affect the historic environment or archaeological services.

**8. Communication Officer:** Chris reported that the Branch web-site was generally ticking over, with recent additions including the Lincolnshire COF visit to Somerton Castle and other activities in general.

**9. IHBC Council 2014 Peripatetic Meeting**

Liz reported that a good basic programme had been arranged, and that Chloe will be leading a tour of Roundhouse, yet to be finalised.

Fiona is organising various IHBC events around the 'stepping stones' project to help members who were struggling to fulfil all of the IHBC Membership competencies to upgrade from affiliate to full membership in a staged manner.

It was recognised that the two most difficult elements of competency to address were Design and Finance and Economics.

It was proposed to reconvene the Branch working group to address the final elements of the programme, and also to consider Sara Croft's suggestion that we should be invite people from other professional bodies with an interest in heritage.

However it was confirmed that the Branch AGM and a social event with visit to pubs in Derby town centre will be held on the Thursday evening.

- 10. Annual School Bursary:** Rose confirmed that the Branch had the funds to fund a full place at the Annual School, and this year the award has been given to Simon Revill of Donald Insall's and he will be feeding back a report to the Peripatetic Meeting on the issues he found in upgrading from an affiliate to a full member.
- 11. AOB:** Jason noted that Cathie Clark was putting in an HLF Bid and would like to have a letter of support from the Branch in respect of the training that she organises for traditional skills/projects.

This was supported by the Branch - **Jason to draft a letter for Liz to sign off.**

Eva Long raised an interesting issue regarding the difficulties of attending evening meetings and wondered whether meetings could be broadcast over the internet. Liz suggested that she could look into this, but access to technology may make this difficult.

Finally, Liz offered thanks to Jane Roylance for organising the Branch's visit to the Magnus Buildings.

The meeting finished at 3:20pm, and was followed by presentations on the latest works at the Magnus Buildings and a tour of the site.

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#### **Date of Next Meetings:**

Next Branch meeting Tuesday 15 July at 7.00pm in Newark

Thursday 11 - Friday 12 September: Building Skills for IHBC.

Thursday 11 September: Branch AGM and Social

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